

Norovirus

Administering Department: Virology

Test Contact: Kari Getz or Colleen Greenwalt 334-2235 (ext 228 or 229)

Purpose of Test:

To detect the presence or absence of Norovirus RNA in stool and vomitus specimens obtained as part of outbreak investigations of foodborne gastroenteritis.

Method: reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

Sample and Submission Guidelines:

To submit samples, contact local District Health Department

Specimens collected within 48 hours of on-set of symptoms provide best conditions for recovery of nucleic acid.

Collection of a minimum of ten specimens per outbreak is recommended. Fewer than 3 specimens will not be tested.

20-50 ml stool &/or 10 ml vomitus in leak proof containers (rectal swabs are not acceptable)

Keep specimens cool during storage and transport.

Properly labeled specimens must be accompanied by Request for Enteric Disease Forms, complete with on-set date, date of collection, and submitter address.

Possible Results and Meaning:

Three or more specimens that are positive by RT-PCR is indicative of Norovirus as the primary cause of gastroenteritis outbreak.

Negative result by RT-PCR does not rule out the possibility of the presence of Norovirus.

Charge for test: none

Turn-Around-Time: 2 days (M-F)

Links: For information about Noroviruses go to CDC Web Site at

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/gastro/norovirus.htm>